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Approved For Release 2005/01/12 : CIA-RDP88-01315R000400060023-0

4435 WISCONSIN AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20007 244-3540

CIA 4 Israel (uranium)
P-Kohn, Howard

P-Newman, Barbara

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CIAI.01 Helms, Richard

(orig under CIA4)

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM The Today Show

STATION WRC TV
NBC Network

DATE October 24, 1977 7:00 AM

CITY Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT An interview on Alleged Plutonium Diversion

JANE PAULEY: The story you're about to hear has all the makings of a big novel, except that Tom's guests this morning swear that it's true.

TOM BROKAW: Two reporters for the Rolling Stone magazine today are publishing a story, and this is the essence of it: that Israel has as many as fifteen nuclear bombs built with uranium smuggled out of the United States or hijacked from Europe during the 1960s. What's more, according to Rolling Stone, the governments of the United States, France and West Germany were aware of the Israeli operation and chose to ignore it. That's the essence of the story being published today by Rolling Stone under the bylines of reporters Howard Cohn and Barbara Newman, who is also a reporter for National Public Radio.

There have been rumors for sometime that Israel was a nuclear power, but in your mind now there is no doubt about it, Mr. Cohn? How do you know?

HOWARD ^{Kohn}~~Cohn~~: Well, absolutely no doubt about it. It's been, as you say, an open secret for several years that Israel has had the bomb. But what we've done is talk to a couple of people who've given us the details of how they originally carried out the program, starting in 1957, to put together an entire arsenal of atomic bombs.

BROKAW: Among other things, Ms Newman, you say that it takes enriched uranium, as we all know, to build nuclear weapons. Originally you claim that Israel was able to get a steady supply from a Pennsylvania manufacturer by the name of Zorman Shapiro of Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corporation; that it was smuggled out during that period of time.

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